

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

November 1, 2005

CONCURRENT PLANNING REDESIGN

On this, the first day of the 2005 National Adoption month, I congratulate the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on its successful exploration of alternatives intended to enhance permanency for all children who have been removed from their homes as a result of abuse and neglect. All children deserve the stability of thriving in a safe and nurturing home. Between the years 2003 and 2005, reunifications of children with their families within 12 months or less increased from 34.7 % to 41.4%. However, for those children who could not be safely returned to their families, DCFS has realized significant improvements in its permanency-related outcomes through the DCFS permanency initiatives of Concurrent Planning Redesign, a pilot intended to shorten timelines to permanency; and the Permanency Partnership Program (P3), intended to identify one or more adult connections for youth ages 12 and older with the goal of family reunification, adoption or legal guardianship. Between

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the years 2003 to 2005, adoptions of children within 24 months or less increased from 8.9% to 14.2%; and departmental recommendations to place children in long-term foster care decreased from 19.8% to 5.3%.

On May 24, 2005, on my motion, the Board instructed DCFS to report back to the Board in 180 days, by November 24, 2005, on the status of the DCFS Concurrent Planning Redesign pilot and on the feasibility of expanding the pilot county-wide. Currently, DCFS is piloting Concurrent Planning Redesign in five (5) DCFS regional offices; and P3 services are available in all 17 DCFS offices. P3 services are being provided by three separate entities: DCFS retirees, hired on 120-day contracts, and two contracted partners – the Consortium for Children and the Community College Foundation. However, in order to continue realizing improvements in the numbers of children served and the rates of successful permanency achievement for all children, I firmly believe that the demonstrated successes of these permanency initiatives clearly indicate that expansion of Concurrent Planning Redesign and P3 must be given serious budgetary consideration.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of the Department of Children and Family Services to work in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officer to identify and allocate resources both within and outside of the current DCFS budget in order to further expand the P3 program and to support the county-wide roll-out of the Concurrent Planning Redesign through additional staff; and to report back to the Board on its findings on November 24, 2005.

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